

Agency Activity Inventory
by Agency
Appropriation Period: FY 2006-07

Agency: P12 - Forestry Commission

Functional Group: Economic
Development &
Natural Resources

1192 Wildland Firefighting

Wildland fire protection of life, property, and the state's natural resources is the Forestry Commission's highest mission priority. The Forestry Commission, an emergency response agency, charged with the suppression of wildland fires, strives to maintain a well trained and equipped wildland fire fighting force and ensures its preparedness through associated support functions. The agency also serves in a support role with EMD and SLED for all risks incidents, such as hurricanes, etc. \$171,000 of Volunteer Fire Assistance federal funds are passed through to Volunteer Fire Departments through a competitive grant system. Title 48-23-90

FY 2006-07

Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$10,886,416	\$9,090,770	\$1,248,646	\$470,000	\$0	\$77,000	221.30

Expected Results:

Firefighting response priorities are: protecting life; protecting property; and protecting natural resources. Wildfire response personnel, including detection resources, reconnaissance resources, support resources, and suppression resources maintain a threat-appropriate level of readiness, with readiness increasing as wildfire danger escalates.

Outcome Measures:

A quick response on initial attack with properly trained and well-equipped firefighters is essential to keep wildland fire losses to a minimum. A below average fire season enabled the agency to effectively handle calls despite a 13% vacancy factor among initial attack firefighters. During FY 06, 3,021 fires burned 16,295 acres compared to the five-year average of 3,371 fires burning 21,945 acres. Average response time decreased over 2 minutes, to an average of 32.4 minutes, but still above the agency's goal of 30 minutes at full staffing. Average acreage burned per fire was 5.4 acres, well below the five-year average of 6.5 acres. The agency has expanded personnel assignments and training for serving on all risks Incident Management Teams.

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1193 Wildland Fire Prevention

With South Carolina's population expanding into forested areas, creating the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), the Forestry Commission works diligently to inform homeowners, community leaders, developers and planners in strategies for reducing the risks to wildland fire and thereby protecting their homes and communities. 90% of wildfires are human caused and 46% result from debris burn escapes. Over the past five years an average of 94 homes and structures per year have been lost to wildfire. To raise this awareness, the commission conducts homeowner and community leader workshops; develops Community

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Wildfire Protection Plans based on those communities assessed at high risk to wildfire; recommend hazardous fuels reduction projects to reduce hazardous fuel loads; coordinates with local fire departments; conducts smoke management workshops; investigates wildfires to determine cause and origin; enforce the states outdoor burning laws; Title 48-23-90.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$674,031	\$346,510	\$327,521	\$0	\$0	\$0	29.00

Expected Results:

Reduction of wildland fires especially those caused by debris burning and woods arson which are directly associated with risks to life, property and natural resources, with homeowners learning to fireproof their homes and surrounding landscapes and developers and planners incorporating wildfire prevention measures in new developments; increased public awareness of safe and proper techniques in outdoor burning of debris; and an increased public awareness of the outdoor burning laws. Active enforcement of outdoor burning laws adds emphasis to the fire education message. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management Team.

Outcome Measures:

Three wildfire prevention teams were deployed in targeted areas across the state prior to the spring wildfire season of 2006 to promote safe debris burning; one team each was assigned to Berkeley and Charleston counties, Williamsburg and Georgetown counties, and Greenville, Oconee and Pickens counties. In cooperation with and the assistance of local fire departments and other cooperators, team members distributed more than 174,000 "Think Before You Burn" promotional materials to homes, businesses and public buildings and approximately 40,000 informational inserts, in both English and Spanish, were distributed through local newspapers in the targeted areas. Six "Living on the Edge" and "How to Have a Firewise Home" workshops were conducted for homeowners, developers, and community leaders, 16 interviews were conducted with local media, public service announcements were distributed to 18 radio and television outlets, debris burn demonstrations were conducted for the media by each team, and fire prevention messages were displayed on 10 billboards and 38 signs, which were placed at fire departments, recycling centers and other prominent locations in targeted communities. Team members conducted 83 burn site inspections for homeowners who were conducting debris burns. Comparing December '05 - February '06 fire data with 04-05 fire data for the same period, the percentage of wildland fires caused by debris burn escapes declined by an average of 32% in the areas targeted by prevention teams. This year investigations of wildland fires increased by 7% and prosecutions for fire law violations were up 13%. During the year SCFC officers investigated 1,400 fires and issued a total of 486 citations for fire law violations.

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1194 Law Enforcement - Timber Theft and Fraud

Investigates all reported timber theft and timber transaction crimes on state and private lands. Investigators trained in technical forestry issues including forestry, forest products measurements, timber sales processes and procedures, and timber trespass in addition to standard law enforcement procedures. Works with U. S. Forest Service law enforcement, industry security agents,

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as well as local law enforcement. Primary victims are the elderly, minorities and absentee landowners. Title 48-23-90 Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$322,662	\$297,662	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	6.00

Expected Results:

Identification and prosecution of persons committing forest products theft and fraud and other criminal acts related to timberland and its uses. Reduction in the number of theft and fraud cases over time and/or the monetary loss associated with those cases. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

Outcome Measures:

Aggressive enforcement appears to be having the desired crime prevention effect. Reports of theft/transaction crimes were approximately the same level as last year. During the year agents investigated 160 cases valued at approximately a half-million dollars. With approximately 23% of wildfires being arson related, agents focused on investigation of serial woods arson cases this year. Even though woods arson is an extremely difficult crime to prove, seven investigations involving 45 fires resulted in five arrests. All agents are fireline qualified; all participated in fire suppression, fire investigation and fire law enforcement efforts during the year.

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1195 Forest Health - (Insects and Disease)

Monitors all forest land within the state for outbreaks of serious insect pests or diseases including Southern Pine Beetle, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Gypsy Moth, exotic bark beetles, Fomes Annosus, Sudden Oak Death, etc. Works with landowners, forestry professionals, and other state and federal plant professionals to implement management strategies that minimize risks of outbreaks. Detects infestations through the use of aerial and ground survey methods including public reporting. Advises and coordinates with other professionals emergency response measures for control when necessary. Title 48-23-90, 48-29-20 Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$1,737,875	\$10,855	\$1,727,020	\$0	\$0	\$0	5.50

Expected Results:

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Implements programs to train landowners, forestry and other natural resource professionals in management processes that will prevent outbreaks or minimize their impact. During outbreaks, work done under the program will raise the public awareness of the outbreak, identify locations and advise impacted landowners, and coordinate suppression efforts with all parties needed to effectively control the outbreak. Works to encourage salvage of the affected material that has commercial value. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

Outcome Measures:

Increased awareness by the public and resource management professionals. Presentations were made to State Tree Farm Committee, Foresters Council, Nursery, Turfgrass, and Landscape Professionals, Clemson Extension, 17 public/civic organizations; 3 news articles were prepared and 10 media interviews were conducted; 6 training sessions on forest health were conducted for resource professionals and 3 for landowner organizations; 20 resource professionals received direct one-on-one assistance. Number of impacted areas identified and size minimized. A statewide 20% aerial survey was conducted to identify impacted areas, with additional periodic reconnaissance's flown in targeted areas; worked cooperatively with USFS, APHIS, and Clemson on identifying and monitoring exotic insects and diseases. The Red Bay Asian Ambrosia beetle was identified in Colleton, and Hampton Counties and a multi-agency investigation continues. Oak Wilt was identified in Lexington County. The Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program, which encourages landowners to implement forest practices that minimize the effects of Southern Pine Beetle outbreaks, was implemented.

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1196 Forest Management Assistance

The Forestry Commission is responsible for providing direct assistance to individual private landowners. This customer group owns 80% of South Carolina's 12.4 million acres of forest land. The basic service provided is development of customized plans to guide landowners in development and management of their woodlands. A plan includes an inventory of existing vegetation and other natural features, maps, and recommendations to guide the landowner to accomplish his/her identified objectives. Title 48-23-90; 48-23-295 Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$1,856,239	\$883,183	\$641,056	\$0	\$0	\$332,000	27.00

Expected Results:

Increase in number of landowners in S.C. that are actively managing their forest land and curtail the amount of forest land being converted to other uses. Well-managed, private forest lands enhance the overall quality of life, serve as catalyst for economic activity and provide public benefits such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, etc. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

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Outcome Measures:

Number of management plans developed and acres examined (1,419 plans / 91,654 acres), acres treated or improved (37,730), results of customer satisfaction survey (95% of customers satisfied), number of landowners recognized for implementing stewardship management practices(19).

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1197 Pass-through Programs

Federal funds supplied by the U.S. Forest Service are made available to other public and private organizations to strengthen partnerships designed to improve forestry initiatives. These are pass-through funds. Title 48-23-90

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$185,000	\$0	\$185,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00

Expected Results:

Department of Natural Resources, \$61,000; US Department of Natural Resources, \$28,500; Clemson University, \$20,000; S.C. Wildlife Federation, \$8,500; Ninety-Six RC&D, \$1,000; Private Forestry Consultants, \$50,000; Palmetto Conservation Foundation, \$6,000; S.C. Forestry Association, \$10,000

Outcome Measures:

Appropriate outcome measures are included in each project agreement.

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1198 Forest Renewal Program Financial Assistance

Provides financial assistance to promote reforestation and other forestry improvement treatments on family owned forest lands as authorized under SC Code of Laws Title 48 Chapters 28 & 30. Program funding is public/private partnership with 90% of funds for reforestation projects provided by landowner and private wood using industry.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	1.50

Expected Results:

Forest health and productivity will be enhanced on family owned forests as non-stocked and non-productive forest lands are reforested or improved. Productive, healthy forests will remain an important catalyst for economic activity.

Outcome Measures:

Treatment plans developed (449), acres planted or improved (20,094), financial assistance earned (\$707,211), number of landowners participating (301), total value of landowner work performed (\$1,768,000), a 9:1 return on investment of state dollars.

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1199 Community Forestry Assistance

The program assists municipal and county governments in creating, maintaining, and enhancing communities forest conservation and management within their jurisdictions; to provide for, coordinate and/or conduct information, education and training regarding community forestry, wildland-urban interface issues, and arboricultural best management practices; to provide grants to local governments, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions of higher learning to create, enhance and support long-term local, regional and statewide community forestry programs. Approximately \$389,310 of federal funds are issued as competitive grants to local municipalities. Title 48-23-90 Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$589,310	\$0	\$589,310	\$0	\$0	\$0	4.00

Expected Results:

Expected results include but are not limited to: improved air quality, energy conservation through reduced heat island effect in downtown areas, local government recognition and management of the community tree resource, sustained financial support on the local level for community tree management, more professional public tree managers to provide safe walkways, streets and parks, and more public trees planted and maintained to beautify, cool, and clean South Carolina communities. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

Outcome Measures:

Outcome measures include but are not limited to: # of local governments having a community forestry program (80); # of municipal and county tree management ordinances (92); # of municipal and county tree inventories and

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management plans (25) # of Tree City USA's (40); # of municipal and county governments at training and continuing education events (38); # of local governments provided assistance by state personnel (64).

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1200 Forest Resource Development

This activity provides the only up-to-date, accurate data on South Carolina's forest resource. Agency crews collect field data that is analyzed and published online and in technical reports. This data is utilized in developing or expanding sustainable markets for forest products to benefit forest landowners, forest industry, and the state's economy. Title 48-23-90 Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$631,246	\$211,346	\$334,942	\$84,958	\$0	\$0	10.50

Expected Results:

Agency crews measure the network of plots on a 5-year schedule. Forest resource data is analyzed, published promptly, and distributed to appropriate audiences. Data is used to identify the best opportunities for expanding or developing markets for forest products. Assistance is available to existing forest products companies to help them operate more efficiently and profitably. This activity plays a major role in determining whether South Carolina's forests are managed sustainably. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

Outcome Measures:

The SCFC began the 9th FIA survey in March, 2002 and crews are on schedule to complete remeasurement of all plots by December, 2006. New forest resource data is on schedule to be released in July, 2006. The SCFC is leading an effort, in cooperation with the USFS and NC State, to study the long-term availability of our wood resource. This study will help determine opportunities for industry recruitment. 14 active projects in FY '05-'06 were focused on developing new markets for forest products. Capital investment by forest products companies exceeded \$570 million and 455 jobs.

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1201 Nurseries and Tree Improvement

To provide a stable source of seedlings from the best genetic stock to South Carolina landowners to support forest regeneration, promote efficient wood production and multiple use, promote restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem, and provide a wide variety of hardwoods and conifers not commonly available for wildlife, wetlands restoration, and various cost-share programs. Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires. Title 48-23-100

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$940,000	\$0	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$850,000	8.00

Expected Results:

Wide variety of species and types grown to meet demand not otherwise available. Highest quality genetic seed used for small landowner not always available from commercial sources. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

Outcome Measures:

5.5 million seedlings of 60 different tree species sold in FY '05-'06. Customer survey shows 85% satisfaction with seedlings. \$200,000 of seed & cones sold to industry to fill shortages. Research agreements with Cellfor & MeadWestvaco developed to assure SC landowners will have access to the best quality seedlings in the future.

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1202 Forestry Best Management Practices

This activity involves locating active forestry operations and providing site-specific recommendations to ensure protection of water quality through appropriate implementation of forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs). The partnership between public and private cooperators utilizes a non-regulatory approach to encourage cooperation among all landowner classes, and specially trained foresters provide consistent guidance across the state. This unit conducts training to encourage BMP implementation for loggers, contractors, foresters, and forest landowners. The program is recognized regionally and nationally, having won the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Awareness Award in 2000. Title 48-36-30; 48-23-90 Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$384,171	\$0	\$225,075	\$152,096	\$0	\$7,000	5.00

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Expected Results:

Prevent/minimize water quality impacts when silviculture activities are conducted. Conduct courtesy BMP exams on all active forestry operations located; communicate specific recommendations for each site and maintain high BMP compliance on private, public, and industrial forest land. Conduct monitoring surveys to document improvements and identify areas for targeted training efforts. Improve cooperation with appropriate state and federal agencies and assist them with forestry related issues. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

Outcome Measures:

Conducted courtesy BMP exams on 388 active forestry operations. Implementation monitoring indicates overall BMP compliance during harvesting was 98% for 2004-2005. Provided 3,996 contact hours of BMP training programs for loggers, landowners, foresters, and contractors throughout the state. Conducted 123 hours of aerial detection for water quality problems. Responded to 31 complaints regarding forestry operations. Utilized existing agreements with other agencies to share information and improve participation in BMP program.

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1203 State Forest Education

Provide programs and materials to help the public understand the features and resources of the state's forests and public benefits of healthy forests. Make lands available for forestry research projects. Title 48-23-130; 48-23-260 Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$194,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$194,600	2.50

Expected Results:

School groups, teachers tours, scout troops and others use the forest as an outdoor classroom. Universities and others use forest for research projects. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

Outcome Measures:

State Forests conducted educational programs for 163 classes/groups, reaching 3,120 participants. Harbison State Forest also held 4 separate teacher professional development training sessions related to forestry with approximately 78 participants and Auburn University conducted a longleaf regeneration research project on Sand Hills Forest.

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1204 State Forest Resource Management

Management, development and protection of timber, wildlife, endangered species and other resources. Maintenance of infrastructure. Twenty five percent of revenue generated from activity on State Forests is paid to the county where the land is located for use in the local school system. Title 48-23-130; 48-23-260 Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires.

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$2,321,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,321,400	22.50

Expected Results:

Forest health, air and water quality, wildlife habitat and forest based recreational opportunities will be improved. Revenue generated will support state forest system. All resources will be sustainable. Equipment, property lines, trails, roads, etc. will be maintained and ready for use. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

Outcome Measures:

Number of acres improved/treated (6,694), wood product growth/drain ratio (estimated 3:1), revenue generated (\$2,464,592), hunter success, status of endangered species recovery , input from local recreation councils. Revenue returned to local school districts (\$609,698).

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1205 Forestry Program Outreach

The Forestry Commission is responsible for making citizens aware of the benefits and importance of the state's forest resources and of the forestry services for which they may be eligible. Title 48-23-90 Personnel involved in these activities also support the agency's wildland fire suppression effort during periods of high fire activity and on large and extended attack fires. Title 48-23-90

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$164,662	\$164,662	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	2.00

Expected Results:

Foresters work with new landowners or landowners they have not previously served. Minority and underserved landowners and/or communities will practice forest management. Based on individual qualifications, personnel will serve in varying capacities on the fire line or in a support capacity on an Incident Command Management team.

Outcome Measures:

PLT workshops qualified 310 adults for teacher recertification credits. 21 teachers participated in FY '05-'06 SC Teachers Tour for 3 hours of graduate credit. All participants said the course exceeded their expectations for professional education development. None rated the course as not meeting their expectations or needs. Wood Magic Forest Fair programs were conducted at 3 locations; 1,937 students, 119 teachers and 180 parents attended.

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1206 Administration

Provide administrative support to forestry programs and functions. This support includes, but is not limited to executive leadership, financial management, personnel management, procurement of goods and services, facilities management, communications and training. Also provides legislative communication as requested and development and review of agency policy and procedures. Title 48-23-90

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$1,103,982	\$1,103,982	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	17.50

Expected Results:

Financial audits should be free of management letter comments and questioned costs. Goods and services provided on a timely basis as needed and payments made timely. Maintain facilities in good condition to avoid costly repairs. Employees training provided consistently and as needed.

Outcome Measures:

No questioned costs or significant management letter comments on financial or compliance audits. Goods and services delivered on time 95% of time. Payments to vendors made on time 99% of time. Facilities maintained for needed and urgent repairs dependent on funds available. Employee turnover rate was 10.77 compared to a state rate of 15.58 indicating employee satisfaction.

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1623 Wildland Fire Dispatch

Quick and accurate dispatch of firefighters is essential to the Forestry Commission's wildland fire protection mission. The Computer Aided Dispatch System (CADS) allows the firefighters to make initial attack in a time reasonable to minimize losses to wildland fire. The maintenance and upgrading of this dispatch system is critical in ensuring the safety of life, property and natural resources from wildland fire. The Forestry Commission's dispatch system also acts as the primary backup communication system for all-risk incidents in support of SCEMD. Title 48-23-90

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$1,306,581	\$1,263,197	\$43,384	\$0	\$0	\$0	39.00

Expected Results:

Forestry Commission dispatchers are equipped and trained with state of the art computer technology. Wildland fire size and potential threats are minimized by dispatching the closest available resource as identified with the CADS. All forestry related fire activity--reports of wildfires, firefighter dispatch, air operations, prescribed burning notifications, and smoke management-- are monitored, managed, and documented with the CADS.

Outcome Measures:

Forestry Commission dispatchers handled 3,021 wildfire incidents plus numerous other dispatch responses during FY 06. The dispatchers received and tracked 15,557 complex smoke management notifications representing 516,724 acres of forestry, wildlife and agricultural prescribed fires. In addition to the notifications handled by dispatchers, the automated system handled another 342,316 yard and construction debris burning notifications.

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1624 Wildland Fire Equipment

The Forestry Commission has specialized wildfire fighting equipment (dozers with fire plows, dozer transport trucks, wildland fire engines) that must be maintained in a high state of readiness for safe and effective wildland firefighting response. In 1996 the General Assembly appropriated \$1,800,000 of recurring funding to establish a 15 year replacement cycle. Title 48-23-90

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Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	Supp. Funds	CRF	Other Funds	FTEs
\$2,201,336	\$1,735,890	\$0	\$262,946	\$0	\$202,500	10.00

Expected Results:

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Type 6 and Type 7 wildland fire engines are replaced after 150,000 miles. Medium dozers and medium transport trucks are replaced after 15 years of service; large dozers, truck tractors, and lowboy trailers are replaced after 20 years of service. Equipment is maintained and serviced according to schedule and emergency repairs and maintenance conducted in the field to minimize down time of fire fighting equipment.

Outcome Measures:

Firefighting efficiency and operator safety dictates that firefighting equipment be replaced on a reasonable and orderly schedule. Budget restrictions since 2001 have disrupted the replacement schedule. At present we have 30 medium dozers over 15 years old, 14 of which are over 25 years. With funding levels now reduced to 56% of the 1996 level of need and the price of a suppression unit having increased 51% since 1996, equipment replacement is falling further behind schedule and will soon significantly compromise both firefighter safety and fire protection effectiveness.

AGENCY TOTALS

Forestry Commission

TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL OTHER FUNDS
\$26,499,511	\$15,308,057	\$5,381,954	\$4,809,500
	TOTAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	TOTAL FTEs
	\$1,000,000	\$0	411.30